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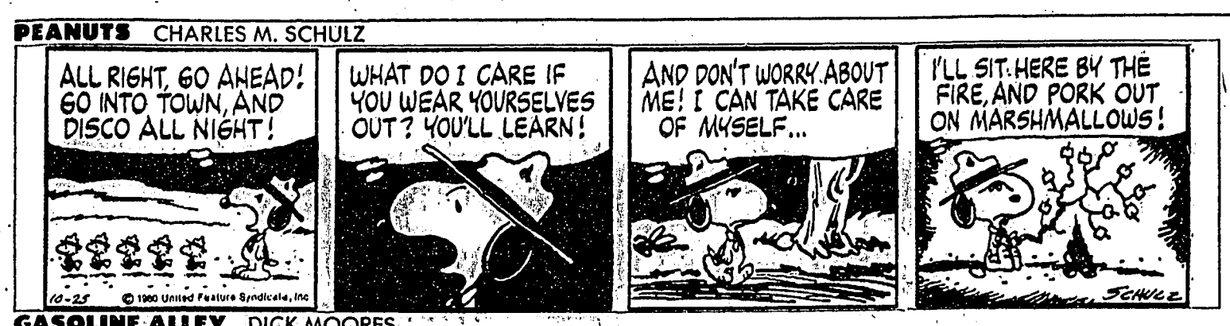
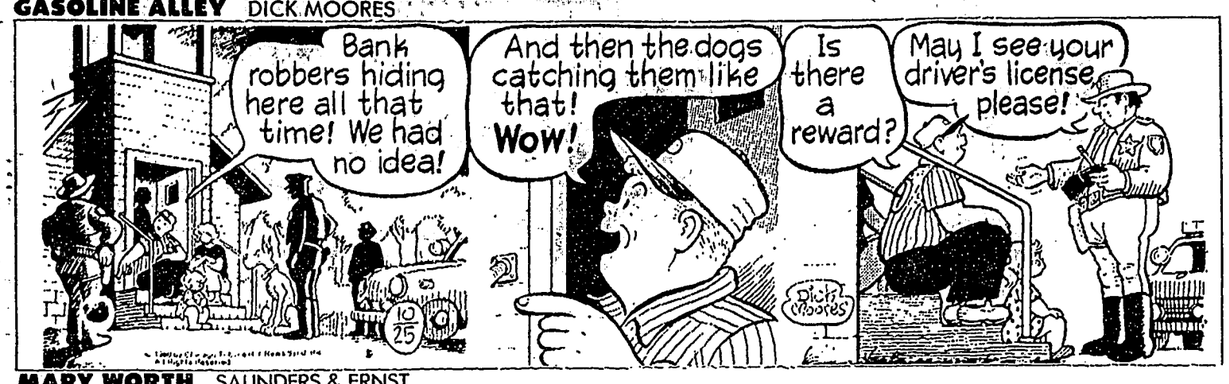
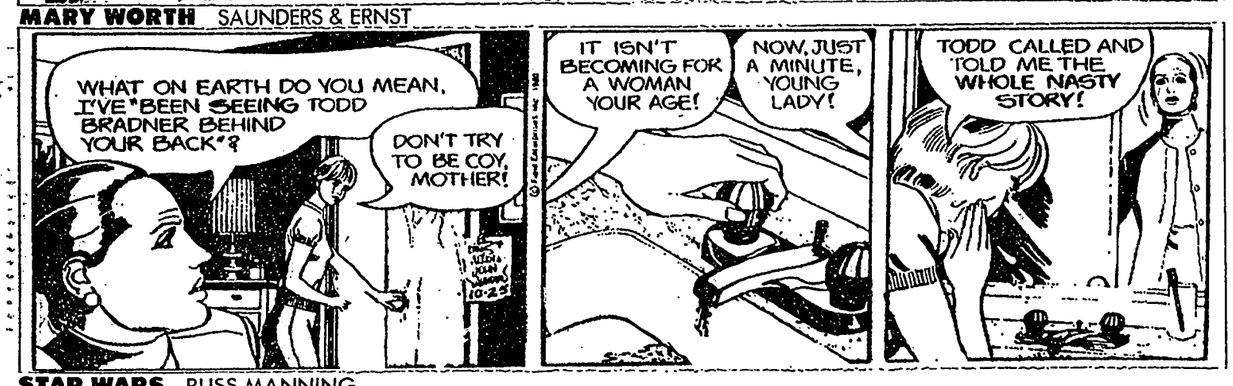


GASOLINE ALLEY DICK MOORES



MARY WORTH SAUNDERS & ERNST



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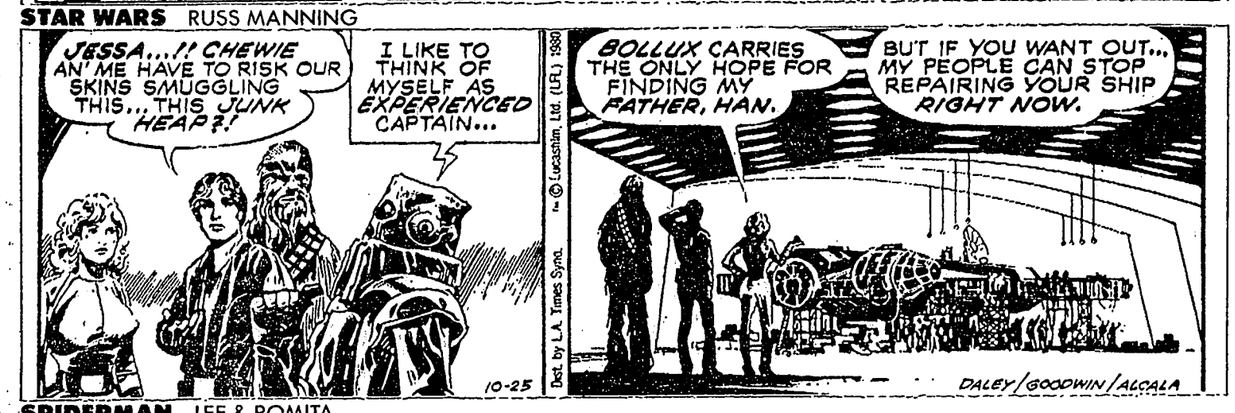

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Another Ex-Foreign Agent for Reagan

Earlier I reported on the surprising number of foreign agents, past or present, who have become close aides and advisers of Ronald Reagan. I listed five; here's a sixth suspect.

Washington attorney Eugene Rossides heads the Reagan campaign's nationalities division — charged with rallying ethnic Americans to the Republican banner. Yet he is regarded with suspicion by many members of his own ethnic community, the Greek-Americans, because of his support of the right-wing military junta that ground down the people of Greece from 1967 to 1974.

Rossides once registered as a foreign agent, not for Greece but for France, when he served as a lobbyist for the Concorde supersonic jet. He also incorporated the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), which has lobbied heavily on matters relating to the embattled island of Cyprus.

Yet Rossides has never registered himself or the institute as an agent for foreign interests. Registered foreign agents are not employed, it should be mentioned, to steal state secrets. They are also seldom foreign. They are usually American citizens retained by foreign interests for the purpose of prevailing upon the U.S. government to act with kindness toward their clients.

Under the law, foreign agents are supposed to register. Rossides got around the registration in a legal, if lawyerly, fashion. The year after incorporating the institute, he set up an affiliated Public Affairs Committee.

The committee, financed strictly from domestic contributions, handled all the lobbying. The institute, funded in part by foreign contributions, handled only trade relations. The funds were kept separate, so no registration as a lobbyist for foreign interests was required.

But sources formerly affiliated with the institute say the distinction between the two funds was not always enforced, with the result that donations from Greek shipowners and other foreign sources may well have gone, not to the trade activities, but to the lobbying operation.

A confidential report sent to the Greek ambassador in Washington by a disenchanted AHI officer in 1976 made the point that the Public Affairs Committee had little funding but a lot of activities, while the institute had generous funding but few activities.

At one point, the Greek embassy tried to avoid contact with Rossides' institute, and one Greek official, John Nicolopoulos, suspected of becoming too cozy, was transferred for fear that his ties to the institute "will result in embarrassment to our government."

During the Ford administration, the Justice Department and Internal Revenue Service agents launched a tentative inquiry into the institute's activities, but it was mysteriously called off. Sources familiar with the situation suspect that President Ford and his political aides feared that Rossides might disclose an embarrassing fact that was not then widely known: Jerry Ford, as House minority leader, had asked Rossides in the late '60s to put G. Gordon Liddy — the man who was later to mastermind the Watergate burglary — on the Treasury payroll.

Footnote: Rossides, who still heads the institute, told my associate Lucette Lagnado that neither he nor the AHI had supported the junta. He insisted that the foreign and domestic funds were scrupulously segregated, and noted that both the Internal Revenue Service and the Justice Department had investigated the institute and cleared it of any wrongdoing.

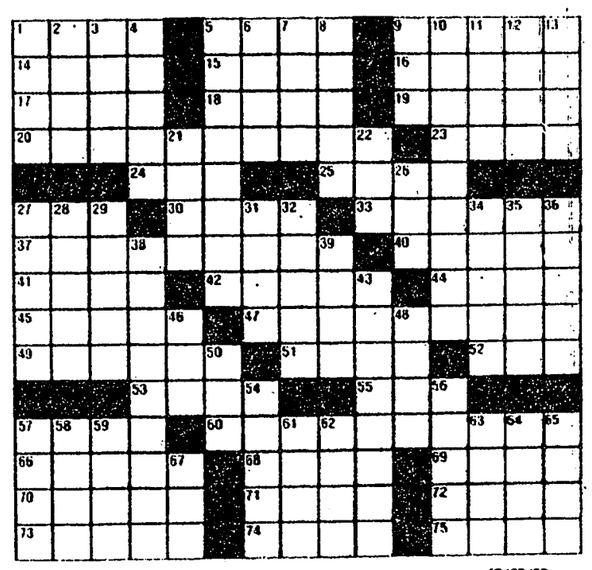
Hot Potato — Republicans on the Senate subcommittee investigating Billy Carter's ties to Libya managed to delete from the final report a couple of references to Libyan influence-peddling attempts in Idaho that might have embarrassed Rep. Steven Symms (R-Idaho) in his race against the incumbent Democrat, Sen. Frank Church.

Any mention of the Libya-Idaho connection was vigorously opposed by Republican Sens. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and Bob Dole of Kansas.

One of the references omitted at the last minute by a subcommittee attorney working directly with Thurmond mentioned a 1977 visit to Libya by an American delegation that "included important personalities from the state of Idaho." Though the reference didn't name Symms, he was one of the Idahoans.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

by Susan Mindell



10/25/80

ACROSS
1 Berets
5 Liberty —
9 Stable
14 Bard of —
15 Lake or Indian
16 Ewe-like
17 Son of Jacob
18 King's title
19 Evil spirit
20 Shopper's aid
23 Landlord's income
24 Navy man: abbr.
25 Adds up
27 Vacation spot
30 Noun suffix
33 Expand
37 On-the-spot deals
40 Prying bar
41 Self: pref.
42 Starchy plants
44 Young salmon
45 Addicts
47 Use the installment plan
49 Mortal
51 "Give a — horse he..."
52 Narcotic
53 Narrative poem
55 12 doz.
57 At a distance
60 Stay out of debt
66 Wife of Abraham
68 Enchanted
69 Egg on
70 Charge
71 Different
72 City south of Delhi
73 Passover feast
74 Antlered animal
75 Openers of a kind

DOWN
1 Body powder
2 Insist
3 Budge
4 Malicious
5 Front row center, perhaps
6 Severeid
7 Italian money
8 Ogles
9 Earth
10 Did not wake in time
11 Citrus
12 Privy to
13 Fender mishap
21 Hostels
22 Flop
26 Unit of length
27 Diving duck
28 Take a break
29 Daisylike flower
31 Pitcher's spot
32 Antitoxin
34 Benefit
35 Conditions
36 Used poor judgment
38 Aqueduct offering
39 Bean
43 Vocalist
46 Bribe
48 Not one
50 Pinch
54 Was concerned
56 Black tea
57 Vipers
58 Subway toll
59 Parched
61 Eastern school
62 Church part
63 Impel
64 Sanguinary
65 Harem rooms
67 Pronoun

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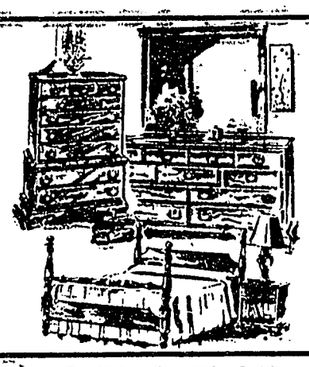

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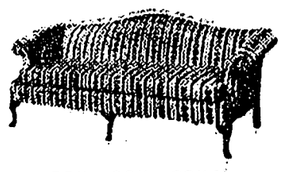

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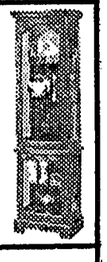
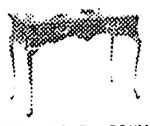


Cherry Queen Anne Writing Desk



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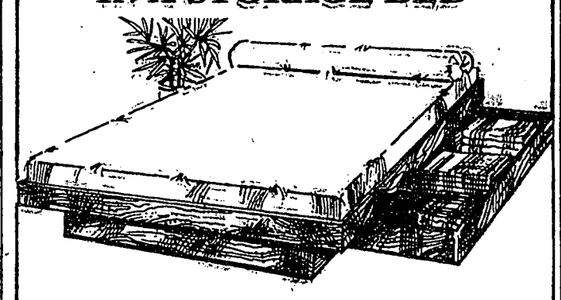

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